



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

November 2024

Visit us on the web at www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org.

Vol. 92 No. 9

Monday, November 11th Menu:

Roasted turkey breast, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, and green beans. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served in the Penthouse after dinner.

What's inside:

- **October Member Speakers Summary, Carol Poh**
- **November Program - Geoffrey Rapp, Member, Edible & Medicinal Value of the Native Plants of Ohio**
- **VA Hopsital's Spinal Chord Garden Update, Bob McMahon**
- **Holden Forest & Gardens' Botanical Bash**
- **Holden Forest & Gardens Holiday Show - Frost Forest**
- **Club News, Reminders & Updates**
- **Team Captains List (NEWLY REVISED 10/27/2024)**

I hope everyone has been enjoying an absolutely beautiful, albeit dry fall season. I for one have enjoyed the weather when working in the garden at my school and home. We are very lucky to be in Northeast Ohio which has had a wonderful seat for Leaf Peeping Season this year. I would like to thank Deb Kramarz, Bob McMahon, and Eddie Lagucki for presenting to our club this past month. I hope that you all enjoyed the format and hearing from fellow club members. As you all know, we have a wealth of knowledge in our club and I hope that we will continue to hear presentations from more of you in the future.

As we move toward the end of the year, I would like to remind you that dues letters/emails will be being sent out and that our annual holiday party will be held on Monday, December 9th. The club will also be holding its winter plant sale at Rockefeller Greenhouse on December 6th and 7th. Please consider stopping by to help out or to purchase some wonderful, seasonal plants. If you would like to donate any plants or items for the sale, please reach out to Debbie Daniels ASAP.

Please remember to RSVP for our November meeting with your team captain. I hope you all have a fantastic November, a delicious Thanksgiving, and a great rest of your fall.

Steve McIntosh





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LEARNING FROM OUR OWN MEMBERS

by Carol Poh

The October 14 program of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland drew on the expertise of four of our club members, each of whom offered seven-minute presentations on diverse subjects.

Deborah Kramarz, a retired teacher, reprised a talk she gave earlier this year to elementary-school students visiting Water Pollution Control, Cleveland's storm water manager, which promotes native plants as a storm water management best practice. Deb's theme was "Clean Water Rooted in Nature." She explained, in simple terms, that because grass roots are short—only about two inches—storm water runs off lawns into the street; from there, it goes into the sewer, and then into Lake Erie, carrying with it any fertilizer or pesticides that may have been applied. That is how the lake becomes polluted. And Lake Erie is where we get our drinking water. ("Most kids don't know that," she said.) Deb then shared "nature's solution" to water pollution: "You can 'shrink' your lawn by planting flowers instead," she told them. "Native plants are best because they have longer roots, which absorb and clean storm water before it goes into the lake." To illustrate the concept, she called on volunteers. Several garden club members stepped up. Each was given a card representing a species of native plants to which a length of hemp twine had been wrapped. The volunteers were asked, in turn, to unfurl the twine, revealing the long, thirsty roots of (among other examples) Goldenrod (7 to 8 feet long), Purple Coneflower (also 7 to 8 feet), and Blazing Star (an astonishing 18 feet long),* putting grass roots to shame.



With help from volunteers, Deb Kramarz demonstrated the long, thirsty roots of native plants, which can aid in absorbing and cleaning storm water.

Steve McIntosh, GoGC president, described the Learning Garden program he established and has operated at Cuyahoga Falls High School (Summit County) since 2015. Steve, who teaches urban agriculture, began the program to provide students and teachers with a fresh opportunity to meet learning standards and empower students to take ownership of their education by using the learning garden as an extension of the classroom. Students apply what they learn in the classroom—including biology, math, language arts, and art—to everything from the construction of raised beds to crop selection and soil testing. Begun on a small scale with the help of foundation funding, this year the high school's Fresh Farm program donated 3,000 pounds of produce to area food pantries (15,000 pounds since 2018).



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by Carol Poh

Bob McMahon, club past president and a lifelong plantsman, discussed how to keep house plants happy by keeping their roots healthy. Soil provides nutrition, air, and drainage. He recommends Happy Frog potting soil, which claims to be “amended with soil microbes that can help improve root efficiency and encourage nutrient uptake.” Because 80 to 90 percent of a plant is water, Bob emphasized the importance of measuring the dryness of the soil before watering. Fortunately, he said, each of us is equipped with a “meter” to gauge when to water: use a finger. He recommended feeding plants intermittently from April through September using any all-purpose plant food, such as Miracle-Gro or Vigoro.



Offering tips for healthy houseplants, Bob McMahon removed a root-bound plant from its pot. Ready for re-potting!

Eddie Lagucki brought the program to a close, demonstrating the construction of nesting boxes for Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Both species are prevalent at Lantern Court and Red Oak Camp in Lake County, where Eddie is lead horticulturist. According to the Ohio Bluebird Society, Bluebirds are cavity nesters, searching out tree hollows and stumps to build their nests. As humans increasingly destroy such natural nesting sites, naturalists encourage people to erect bluebird boxes to help maintain and grow populations of bluebirds for generations to come. Eddie presented slides showing construction techniques and passed around a nesting box for examination. Information on siting, building, and mounting nesting boxes can be found on the website of the Ohio Bluebird Society.



Eddie Lagucki discussed the basics of building a Bluebird nesting box.

*Source: Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Member, Geoffrey Rapp will present a talk entitled “Edible and Medicinal Value of the Native Plants of Ohio. Geoffrey is the founder of Fantastic Foragers, based in Hinckley, OH. Click here to view his website - [Fantastic Foragers](#).



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VA SPINAL CHORD UNIT GARDEN FALL UPDATE, BOB McMAHON

On the beautiful warm morning of October 22, GoGC members Tim Homan, Larry Kell and Bob McMahon purchased 24-8" flowering mums and 8-8" ornamental kale from the Lakewood Garden Center that were planted later that morning at the Cleveland VA Hospital's Spinal Cord Injury Unit courtyard gardens. Garden center owner and fellow GoGC member, Paul Bilyk, gave a generous discount on the purchase for his support for this commendable cause. Thank you, Paul!

The mums and kale were planted in the four large raised beds, replacing the spent vegetable crops; in several containers, replacing spent flowers; and in a ground bed where sweet potatoes and sweet corn had been grown. Staff member, Alexandra Simmons, assisted in the planting. No veterans were available to assist, but Alexandra assured us that they would be out to enjoy the plantings later that afternoon. Photos are attached showing the new plantings. Most of the herbs and flowers planted in May (also purchased from the Lakewood Garden Center at a generous discount!) were still going strong, with the herbs continuing to be used by the kitchen and the flowers continuing to add beauty to the courtyard, now along with the mums and kale. Alexandra thanked us profusely and told us how she and the veterans are so grateful for our club's efforts to provide healthy food and beautiful flowers for them. That is really our club's reward! We also want to thank the Euclid Veterans for funding this noteworthy project!





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HOLDEN FOREST & GARDENS - BOTANICAL BASH





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HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS - FROST FOREST

This year's CBG Holiday Show will be a theme representing Fables & Tales of Frost Forest Flora & Fauna. Gardeners of Greater Cleveland will create a theme-based wreath on:

Little Cabin in the Woods

Little cabin in the woods

To represent the cabin roof: Touch the tips of your fingers together to make an upside down V with your hands.

Little man by the window stood

To represent a window frame: Use the pointer fingers of each hand to draw a square in the air, from top to bottom.

Saw a rabbit hopping by

Look from one side to the other with your hands forming binoculars. Then quickly raise one hand with 2 bent fingers (like bunny ears). Bounce the hand from one side to the other, to represent a bunny hopping.

Frightened as can be.

Cross your arms and hug your chest.

Help me! Help Me! Help me! He cried.

Raise both hands above your head 3 times as you say "help me" X 3.

Or the hunters shoot me dead.

Using your pointer fingers and thumbs, shape a gun with your hands. Bounce your hands from one side to the other, rhythmically, like you are following a bouncing bunny.

Come little rabbit, come to me.

With one or two hands; jester to come, twice.

Hap-py...we...will...be.

(Speaking slowly) Have one hand look like a bunny with wiggling bent ears; while the other hand gently pats/rubs the bunny hand.



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CLUB NEWS, UPDATES & REMINDERS

- Our annual **Holiday Party** will take place Monday, December 9th. *Invitations will be sent out to you in the near future, so please RSVP by the stated deadline. This is a special evening with awards, fellowship and a lovely buffet dinner to appropriately end another year in a festive and upbeat manner!*
- **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31ST!** You can pay online (<https://www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org/plans-pricing>) or by check made out to **Gardeners of Greater Cleveland!** Please note that members not renewing by **December 31st** will be dropped from the membership.

MEMORIES: 2023 Holiday Party Photos





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MEETING INFORMATION:

- WHEN:** 2nd Monday of each month, September through June
- WHERE:** 1 Bratenahl Place
Bratenahl, Ohio
- SCHEDULE:** 5:30 PM - Social
6:15 PM - Dinner
7:15 PM - General Meeting
7:30 PM - Program



OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT:** STEVEN MCINTOSH
- 1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** DEBBIE DANIELS
- SECRETARY:** MELISSA SUPLER
- TREASURER:** HIEDI WINSTON
- ASST TREASURER:** LARRY KELL
- PAST PRESIDENT:** BOB MCMAHON

Current DIRECTORS:

- DEB KRAMARZ (23-24)
- ROBERT MCMAHON
- DEBBIE DANIELS
- ED TUHELA
- FRED ROBINSON
- GARRET ORMISTON
- JONNY PRELL
- LARRY KELL
- TOM DAVIS

CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEES

- Awards: Larry Kell, Tom Seglin, Co-Chairs
- Communication: Jonny Prell, Chair; Steve McIntosh (The Spade Newsletter, Website / Social Media);
- Finance: Larry Kell Chair; Hiedi Winston
- Income Projects: Debbie Daniels, Chair; Bob McMahon, Melissa Supler
- Membership: Jonny Prell, Larry Kell, Co-Chairs
- Programs: Robert McMahon, Chair
- Scholarship: Ed Tuhela, Fred Robinson, Co-chairs; Deb Kramarz,
- Service Projects: Garrett Ormiston, Chair; Bob Rensel, Steve McIntosh

CURRENT SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Cleveland Holden Forest & Garden Council: Deb Kramarz & Joyce Nesbit
- National Organization: Larry Kell, President; Tom Davis, National Director;
- Youth Gardening: Steve McIntosh, Chair; Larry Kell
- Willott Iris Garden: Sandra and Robert Pindell, Ron Hartmiller
- Friends of the Greenhouse: Joyce Nesbit
- 1 Bratenahl Place & Bratenahl Place Bistro: Tom Segelin
- Horticultural Show: Vacant
- Nominating: Bob McMahon, Debbie Daniels, Melissa Supler
- Wellness/Memorials: Team Captains
- Archive Committee: Steve McIntosh, Chair

Team 1

Team Captain: Ginnie Dawson
ginniedawson@gmail.com / 216.849.2781

- Dave Dawson
- Joyce Nesbit
- Carol Poh
- MaryAnn Thesing
- Rachel Laughlin
- John Barber
- Harold Davis

Team 2

Head Team Captain: Ron Hartmiller,
r_hartmiller@yahoo.com / 216.671.1408

- Garrett Ormiston
- Hank Doll
- Lou Drasler
- Herb Klein
- Bob Rensel
- Eddie Lagucki
- Deborah Dockery

Team 3

Team Captain: Andy Kosiorek,
kosiorek@cox.net / 216.226.4503

- Kathy Kosiorek
- Jodith Janes
- Larry Kell
- Hiedi Winston
- Bob McMahon & George Roscoe
- Paul Bilyk
- Susan Post

Team 4

Team Captain: Deb Kramarz,
deborahkramarz@aol.com / 216.731.6324

- Fred Robinson
- Steve McIntosh
- Bob & Sandra Pindell
- Tom Segelin & Julie Giroux
- Kathy Talty
- Sharon Yarnell
- Cyndi Konopka

Team 5

Cathy Ross: estrogen05@yahoo.com
216.970.2854

- Patrick Boggins
- Jonny Prell
- Kelley Adkins
- Debbie Daniels
- Melissa Supler
- Ed Tuhela
- Lisa Skufca

Team 6

Keith Biehl: 440.539.2019 (NO EMAIL)

- Davd & Diane Circle (440.628.8063 Home)
- Paula & Ron Koenig (440.212.5700)
- Deva Simon (440.915.0161)
- Scott Blanchard (330.322.8111)
- Timothy Homan (216.219.0746)
- John Tilsky (440.256.1414)

Team 7

Team Captain: Hiedi Winston,
hwinston@naipvc.com / 440.752.2617

- Fred Burkhalter
- Julie Shaw & Tom Davis
- John Schinker
- Deah Stark
- Sherry Doughten
- Dave Tomashefski
- Susan Brownstein

Team Captains, please call in your RSVP number directly to Hiedi Winston. (440.752.2617 or email at hwinston@naipvc.com) by Thursday evening.